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PATENT APPLICATION

DEC 2 0 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| Thre Application of: | | | Provident TM Level | | |
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| MIYUKI ENOKIDA ET AL. | | | Examiner: T.M. Lam Group Art Unit: 2622 | | |
| Application No.: 09/538,223 | | | | | |
| Filed: | March 30, 2000 | ; | | | |
| For: | IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD, APPARATUS AND STORAGE MEDIUM THEREFOR | ;) ; | December 17, 2004 | | |

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents identified on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the non-U.S. documents, as well as a copy of a Japanese Office Action citing those documents, are also enclosed.

For the concise explanation of relevance for the non-English documents, the Examiner is respectfully referred to the attached English abstracts or partial English translation, as the case may be; also, JPA 10-269353 corresponds to U.S. Patent 6,137,498.

A check in the amount of \$180.00 in payment of the fee required for consideration at this time is submitted herewith. Please charge any deficiency in this fee, and credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 06-1205.

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It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 29,296

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO 30 Rockefeller Plaza New York, New York 10112-3800 Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

| FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF CO PATENT AND TRADEMAR LIST OF REFERENCES CITED B | MMERCE K OFFICE JC | ATTY DOCKET NO. 00862.021880 APPLICATION NO. 09/538,223 | | | | | | | |
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| LIST OF REFERENCES CITED B (Use several sheets if ne | MIYUKI ENOKIDA ET AL. | | | | | | | | |
| (| O July E | FILING DATE March 30, 2000 | ING DATE GROUP 2622 | | | | | | |
| <u> </u> | | U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | | | | | | |
| *EXAMINER DOCUMENT NUMBER | SATENT & TANK | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE | | | |
| 6,137,498 | 10/24/00 | Silvers | 345 | 435 | | | | | |
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| DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT | | | |
| 10-269353 A | 10/09/98 | Japan | | | | Abstract | | | |
| 11-31153 A | 02/02/99 | Japan | | | | Abstract | | | |
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| | OTHER DOCUMENT | (S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertiner | nt Pages, Etc.) | | | | | | |
| Silvers, R., "Ph New York | otomosaics" Edit | ed by Michael Hawley, An | Owl Book, | Henry | Holt ar | nd Company, | | | |
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| EXAMINER | | DATE CONSIDERED | | | | | | | |

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^{*}EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.